

State of Connecticut
Department of Correction
Program Development

Alphabetical Listing of Programs for BRIDGEPORT CC

Addiction Services Tier 1 Substance Abuse Education Program

Description

The Tier 1 program consists of six (6) substance abuse education group sessions, including a minimum of one fellowship meeting. This program is designed to present basic substance abuse information, confront denial, and encourage further treatment involvement.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Addiction Services

Types:

Addiction

Adult Basic Education (ABE)

Description

ABE is the primary program of instruction designed to provide training in basic academic skills in the areas of reading, mathematics, language arts, general science and social studies. The program is directed toward increasing proficiency to the eighth grade level.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education

Alcoholics Anonymous

Description

This is a 12-Step Fellowship self-help group for men and women who provide mutual support in obtaining and maintaining sobriety while also helping others to recover from alcoholism. Meetings, in a variety of formats (Big Book, Step Meetings, Speaker, etc.), are held on a weekly basis. Addiction Services staff coordinate the meetings and provide oversight for the program.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Addiction Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Addiction

Beyond Fear

Description

This is an AIDS education program utilizing a curriculum, printed materials, and an educational video developed by the Department of Public Health. The program is delivered by a contracted outside agency, and funded through the Department of Public Health.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Addiction Services, Contracted Program, Health Services

Types:

Health Education

Bridging the Gap

Description

Alcoholics Anonymous is one of the most important self-help resources for alcoholic men and women. A very important first step for inmates being released into the community is attending the first meeting as soon as possible following release. Addiction Services staff in the institution utilize a toll-free telephone number to get information about the nearest AA meeting location, along with the name of a contact person. An AA member then will contact the inmate upon release and even provide transportation to a meeting.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Addiction Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Addiction, Transition

Catholic Bible Study

Description

Biblical readings are reviewed with inmates. The goal of this program is to help inmates develop self-awareness and personal growth based on Christian principles.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

Catholic Mass

Description

This is the weekly Catholic worship service.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Worship Services

Catholic Studies

Description

Participants in this program study materials from the Confirmation Lesson Plan Guide. This study prepares students for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

Choir

Description

Both Catholic and Protestant inmates are able to join choirs in their respective religious service. These choirs both enhance the religious liturgies and add a level of veneration to those services.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

Community Enhancement Project

Description

This program is designed to foster a positive relationship between the facility and the community by placing sentenced level 2 inmates in the community for the purpose of completing various work details and community beautification projects. This program serves a dual-purpose - that of providing assistance to the community while allowing incarcerated individuals to make a small contribution back to society.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Community Work Group

Connecticut Works

Description

This is a statewide program with 18 offices in Connecticut. CT WORKS is a partnership among the Connecticut Department of Labor, regional Workforce Development Boards, and a number of state and community organizations. Its mission is to enhance the economic development by addressing the special employment and training needs of both job seekers and employers. This program is offered to inmates that are Veterans in need of job services.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Transition

Educational, Career Resources and Job Fairs

Description

These types of Fairs are conducted in the form of a professional conference for students. The educational staff invite a keynote speaker and students proceed to attend individual workshops on a variety of topics. The goal of these Fairs is to assist inmates with their transition plans before they return to the community.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Addiction Services, USD#1

Types:

Academic Education, Transition

Embracing Fatherhood

Description

Embracing Fatherhood is a program designed to assist incarcerated fathers in gaining awareness of the important role they play in the lives of their children. This awareness will enable participants to successfully embrace their roles as fathers and begin to build healthy lifestyles that will benefit both their children and them.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Facility Staff, Volunteer Group

Types:

Family

Family Education & Parenting

Description

This program is designed to help inmates with children become responsible parents. Inmates have classes in parenting skills and in some cases read children's books into audio or video-cassettes to send home to their children. Components of the parenting skills classes include parenting from a distance, discipline techniques, and communicating with children.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Facility Staff, USD#1

Types:

Family

General Educational Development (GED)

Description

The GED is the primary program of instruction for students functioning above an eighth grade level who wish to earn a State of Connecticut high school diploma through the examination process. GED Tutors and volunteers assist Department teachers by helping inmates prepare for the GED Exam and/or by helping to teach basic language skills.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education

HIV Counseling, Testing & Risk Reduction Education

Description

When inmates are tested for HIV, the department provides standardized counseling by Department of Public Health certified counselors before and after testing. Counseling components include what HIV and AIDS are, how to get it, how to avoid getting it, what it means to be HIV positive, how to take care of oneself if one is HIV positive, and help in dealing with the associated feelings.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Health Services

Types:

Health Education

HIV Support Services

Description

The Department demonstrates a collaborative approach in providing HIV support services to inmates in all facilities. A UCONN (Contracted) Health Services Team coordinates testing and counseling services; the Department's School District conducts classroom instruction about HIV; the Department's Addiction Services Unit Counselors provide HIV education and prevention counseling; a number of volunteers serve as "buddies" or sponsors; and Hartford's Community Partners in Action (CPA) receives funding from foundations, grants as well as support from the state's Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to operate the "Beyond Fear" Program. Altogether the Department hosts a complete program that includes counseling, testing, education focus groups, videos, intervention strategies and is able to assist discharging inmates with need for such services as housing, medical treatment, food, clothing and transportation.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Health Services

Types:

Health Education

Inmate Photo Program

Description

Inmates register each month to take either 35 mm or Polaroid photos for a small fee and these photos are sent home or otherwise kept for personal use. Proceeds that are generated are held in a Special Activity Fund. From this fund, thousands of dollars have been donated to local charitable organizations each year, e.g. women's shelters, children's hospitals, youth organizations, and youth at risk programs.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Community Service

Islamic (Quran) Study

Description

Quran readings are reviewed with inmates. The goal of this program is to help inmates develop self-awareness and personal growth based on Islamic principles.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

Jewish Worship and Torah Studies

Description

Jewish Worship services and Torah studies are conducted weekly. During the Holy Days, services are celebrated under the supervision of the Religious Coordinator.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Worship Services

Jumah

Description

Jumah is the weekly Muslim worship service.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Worship Services

Literacy Volunteers of America

Description

An active group of community volunteers, as well as inmate volunteers, contribute hundreds of hours to combat illiteracy for inmates in all of the facilities. Basic reading, vocabulary and comprehension skills are stressed.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

USD#1, Volunteer Services

Types:

Academic Education

Narcotics Anonymous

Description

Narcotics Anonymous is a twelve-step fellowship of addicts helping addicts to recover from the disease of addiction. Meetings, in a variety of formats (Step Meetings, Speaker, Speaker/Discussion, etc.), are held on a weekly basis. The meetings are usually conducted by outside volunteers who share their story of addiction and recovery. Addiction Services staff coordinate the meetings and provide oversight for the program.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Addiction Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Addiction

Protestant Bible Study

Description

Biblical readings are reviewed with inmates. The goal of this program is to help inmates develop self-awareness and personal growth based on Christian principles.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Religious

Protestant Service

Description

This is the weekly Protestant worship service.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Worship Services

Protestant Video and Musical

Description

This is the weekly Christian Video and Music program.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

Special Education and Pupil Services

Description

The special education teachers, pupil services specialists (School Psychologists, School Counselors, School Social Workers), and the associated clerical and durational staff provide services to students with handicapping conditions which interfere with their ability to participate in school. These services are mandated by federal (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997) and state (Connecticut General Statutes 10-76) statute. Special education services encompass a broad array of activities including assessment, counseling, transition planning, and both the direct and indirect (e.g. consultation) services of the special education teachers and pupil services staff. Student programs are designed according to the individual needs of each student with disabilities and are specified in an Individualized Education Plan (IEP.)

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education

Sponsorship Behind the Walls

Description

This program is designed for inmates participating in a 12-step recovery program. It enables participants to write to an outside sponsor in order to work the 12 steps of recovery.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Addiction Services

Types:

Addiction

Strive Program

Description

STRIVE is a program operated by a number not-for-profit affiliates. Its main goal is to help people get and keep jobs. STRIVE emphasizes developing the kinds of attitudes that are necessary to get and keep a job. It actively assists in job placement for graduates and offers two-year long-term post placement support to help its graduates with whatever problem that threatens their continued success. In this collaborative effort, STRIVE and the Department of Correction staff enrolls the inmates in an intensive three-week program, to begin upon discharge from the facility. The objective of this collaborative program is to keep the participants from returning to the Department of Correction by helping them change their attitude, get a job, and keep the job.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Transition

Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

Description

TESOL is an instructional program for students whose primary language is not English. TESOL instruction helps students to speak, read and write English or assists them in developing the language skills necessary for overall academic and vocational progress.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education

Transition/School to Work

Description

The Transition/School to Work program's mission is to place participating students in employment and/or vocational/educational programs and to provide each student with a needs-based transition plan prior to his/her release to maximize potential for successful re-entry into society. School-based and work-based learning opportunities are provided through job and resource fairs, employment skills curriculum, sessions with transition counselors and meetings with a transition coordinator. A USD#1 brochure describing this program is available.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Transition

Transitional Linkage into the Community (TLC)

Description

Transitional Linkage into the Community (TLC) is a program of Community Partners in Action which provides discharge planning for inmates with HIV/AIDS. TLC serves every prison and jail in the state, and works with clients returning to every region of the state. TLC case managers meet clients' emergency needs upon release, and connect them with services in their local communities for continuing care and assistance.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Contracted Program, Health Services

Types:

Health Education, Transition

Victim-Offender Dialogue

Description

For a variety of reasons, it is sometimes helpful for victims to meet with offenders. The department's Victim Services Unit evaluates and when appropriate facilitates this dialogue. The process is designed to achieve the objectives of restorative justice, healing the victim, and confronting and holding the offender accountable. Although this process can often be very helpful to the inmate, all such dialogues are initiated at the request of victims.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

Facility Staff, Victim Services

Types:

Domestic Violence, Victim

Youth Offender Program

Description

Through the use of federal funds, post-secondary education and transition services are provided to "youth offenders" up to the age of 26 who are eligible for parole or release within five years. A transition counselor provides assistance and counseling to encourage participants to acquire functional literacy as well as life/job skills while in prison. Students participate in post-secondary classes, complete portfolios, and develop transition plans and placement.

Facility:

Bridgeport CC

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education, Vocational Education